

Europe freezes as fresh snow
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December is AIDS
awareness month



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Thursday, December 9, 2010

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Aruba's Airport is 100% Aruba's

Minister Oduber, on Tuesday afternoon met with the Schiphol Group who manages our Prinses Beatrix Airport, and succeeded to eliminate a clause in the management agreement that related to a potential sale of shares of Aruba's airport to this group.

Three vital points were included in the addendum to the management contract:

1. the elimination of the possibility of a 49% share in the company

2. the number of members of the supervisory board is 5, while there are only 4 currently on the board. The intention was to appoint a Schiphol person to complete the 5 members required. However, in the addendum minister Oduber (government of Aruba) can now appoint a fifth member to the board, an Aruban.

3. the addition of a strategic partner as counterpart statutory director who will serve alongside the Schiphol director and eventually would take over the reigns of the Airport as director.

Otmar Oduber highlighted that Schiphol remains a strategic partner and expects this relationship to last for a long time; however, it is the responsibility of Aruba to ensure that our airport continue to contribute to the major source of our economy...tourism! Our airport, says Oduber should not be a commercial entity but a service airport. The airport should give every visitor's first and last impressions the feeling of wanting to return to Aruba and to promote Aruba to other markets.



Observers have remarked that, this is yet another milestone in Oduber's successful tourism management.

ANNOUNCEMENT



The Aruba Golf Club, situated in San Nicolas, announces to all its members that after the morning golf tournament, the Club will choose a new board. All members are requested to be there!

PLACE: The Aruba Golf Club
DATE: Sunday, December 12, 2010
TIME: 2:30 p.m.



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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Europe freezes as fresh snow causes travel chaos

PARIS, France (AFP) - Heavy snow blanketed Paris yesterday forcing the closure of the Eiffel Tower and briefly shutting its main airport as sub-zero temperatures turned Scottish roads into deadly ice sheets and Spain and Portugal cleared up after flooding and tornado-like winds.

Road, rail and air travellers faced fresh disruption following last week's transport shut-down with Paris's Charles de Gaulle-Roissy airport closed for an hour-and-a-half and the mercury plummeting as low as minus 18.3 degrees Celsius (minus one degree Fahrenheit) at Tyndrum in the Scottish highlands.

In Portugal the high winds carried off cars, uprooted trees, tore off roofs and blew over electricity poles Tuesday, leaving around 30 people injured. A second body was recovered in Spain yesterday following

flooding.

France's meteorological service France Meteo said 11 centimeters (four inches) of snow fell in central Paris, the heaviest snowfall since 1987.

Around 100 flights were prevented from taking off or landing at Roissy airport during the temporary closure while workers cleared the runways of the heavy snow that began falling around midday, airport officials said.

Thousands of passengers were stranded at the airport late yesterday as the approach roads to Roissy were blocked, Air France said. One in five flights were earlier cancelled at the request of France's civil aviation authority (DGAC) due to the poor weather forecast.

Runways at Paris's second airport Orly were also shut for about half-an-hour for snow to be cleared and flights were delayed by up to two hours.

The deluge left all motorways in the Paris region impassable and only a handful of the 350 Paris bus routes were operating.

In Scotland, First Minister Alex Salmond said everything

possible was being done to keep the country moving.

Temperatures were expected to stay well below freezing throughout Scotland until today -- leaving thick sheets of ice and compacted snow on roads and pavements.

Edinburgh council was meanwhile in discussions with the Scottish government and the army about bringing in soldiers to help clear snow from the city's streets.

Up to 76 centimeters (30 inches) of snow has fallen in parts of the capital and the temperature dropped to minus 14.6 degrees Celsius.

Elsewhere in Europe, police in Spain recovered the body of a nine-year-old boy who went missing after the car he was travelling in was swept away by floodwater.

His death was the second from the storms that have battered southern Spain and Portugal since Saturday.

The flooding has blocked dozens of roads and forced the evacuation on Tuesday of some 3,000 people in the Andalusian town of Ecija after the river Genil burst its banks.

Haiti closes airports as violence spreads

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AFP) - Haiti closed its airports yesterday as post-election violence rocked the Caribbean nation with clashes leaving at least four dead.

Officials in Port-au-Prince airport said all the nation's air transport hubs had been closed as thousands protested in cities across the country following the announcement of the results of the November elections.

US air carrier American Airlines has suspended flights to and from Haiti for yesterday and today after barricades were set up across the capital and

running clashes broke out between rival political supporters.

"The airport and company's employees have been unable to get to work," said Miami-based spokeswoman Martha Pantin. "We continue to monitor the situation and hope to return as soon as possible."

Canada's Air Transat, which normally provides weekly flights to and from Port-au-Prince, catering to the large Haitian community in Montreal, had pushed them back to today for "security reasons," spokesman Pierre Tessier said.

Yoko and fans mark 30 years since Lennon's death

LIVERPOOL, England (AFP) - Fans gathered in Liverpool yesterday to mark the 30th anniversary of the murder of John Lennon, as part of a global day of celebrations of the music icon's life.

In the city which produced the Beatles, the focus of the memorials were the Peace and Harmony monument unveiled earlier this year in memory of Lennon, who died when he was only 40.

Fans lighted candles and sang songs to remember the musician whose life was abruptly ended by a lone gunman outside the luxury Dakota apartment block in New York on December 8, 1980.

The Peace and Harmony monument was unveiled on October 9 -- his birthday -- by



A rosebud is left by a John Lennon fan on his statue in the park named after him in Havana, yesterday. Cuban fans held vigils to mark the 30th anniversary of the murder of John Lennon. (AFP PHOTO)

Lennon's first wife Cynthia and their son Julian in Chavasse Park.

Panama Canal closed

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AFP) - The Panama Canal was closed to ships yesterday after heavy rains swelled nearby lakes that flow into the key global transport route.

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) said heavy rains in the last few hours had filled the Gatun and Alhajuela lakes to

historic levels, forcing it to "temporarily" suspend traffic.

Senior ACP official Manuel Benitez said the canal was closed in order to open flood gates to relieve one of the lakes, adding that the authority was "taking steps to normalize transit operations in the next few hours."

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Dutch hackers possibly behind cyber attacks



THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- Dutch detectives are investigating who is behind a cyber attack on Mastercard. The hackers used a server in the city of Haarlem near Amsterdam.

The credit card company's website crashed yesterday. The site has been targeted because the company refuses to transfer money to Wikileaks.

Chavez threatens takeover of large banks

CARACAS—President Hugo Chávez threatened to take control over the local unit of Spanish bank Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA and other large financial institutions if they don't ensure that homes and apartments they finance are occupied immediately.

Mr. Chávez, who has brought his own brand of socialism to Venezuela, has nationalized more than 200 companies this year from various sectors of the economy.

While Mr. Chávez has threatened to expropriate large banks in the past if they don't

A group calling itself Anonymous, has threatened anyone with an anti-Wikileaks agenda. The groups says it has 4000 "hacktivists" willing to help the whistle blower site. Earlier the group brought down the website of payment company PayPal. The Swiss bank PostFinance also suffered a cyber attack.

increase loans to small-business owners and prospective home buyers, this time he is increasing the pressure publicly to show his concern for the lack of sufficient housing for Venezuela's 28 million people.

The issue has plagued this oil-rich nation for decades, and during Mr. Chávez's nearly 12 years in office the growth in population has exacerbated the housing shortage. In Caracas and other large cities, millions of people are forced to live in slums made of shoddily constructed, ramshackle homes on hillsides

Minister of Culture Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar satisfied with the big interest

Course on Oral history started this week

To document and safeguard our cultural heritage

This week, the Ministry of Culture started with the course of oral history called "documentando esunnan no documenta, salvaguardia nos herencia cultural," – documentation of non documented data, safeguard our cultural heritage. The course was taught by two professionals from Curaçao, namely, Mrs. Jeanne Henriquez of the Museo Tula, and Mrs. Crisen Schorea of the Kas di Kultura Korsow (Curaçao House of Culture).

The course started on December 6 and ends on December 10, 2010. It consists of two parts, theoretical and practical.

One of the objectives of these courses is to make the community aware of the important role of investigation and documentation. Investigation concerning the cultural and natural heritage of our people is extremely significant.

The courses will serve as a stimulus to our people to conserve, protect and promote our



cultural and natural heritage. To achieve this, they are convinced the information must be communicated on a national level and in different formats.

The courses are part of the project 'Expedition Rescate' (Rescue Expedition) as it is dubbed, which forms an integral part of the 2010-2011 management and action plan of the Aruba Department of Cul-

ture (DCA). Institutions such as the University of Aruba and the IPA concur on the importance that the results of this kind of investigation will have especially on education.

The attendees were very enthusiastic with the course, giving important suggestions and comments, which attest the success of the project.

Minister Otmar Oduber succeeds in Holland



One of the largest groups in Holland with public transport expertise, the Connexion Group, as they are called, met yesterday with Minister Oduber. Oduber's meeting with the group was a follow up to meetings held earlier in the year. In those earlier meetings they had agreed to come back together to discuss the possible participation of some strategic assistance from Holland's Connexion Group and Aruba with respect to our public transport system (Arubus).

The minister reported that his meeting with Connexion

was very productive and resulted in an agreement that the group will discharge two of their experts to Aruba in January.

One of their experts will focus on the financial aspect of Arubus and the other on the strategic aspect of Aruba's public transport system.

This measure is necessary, claims Oduber, because Arubus is currently experiencing very

difficult times. He is convinced that this expert assistance from Connexion could help Arubus out of its financial

slump and eventually help the company to become financially and strategically healthy again.

Oduber reminded everyone that it was a similar action by Dutch experts, the Schiphol Group, who helped improve the quality and viability of our Airport. He envisions that the help of Connexion will do the same for Arubus. The Aruban minister also emphasized that there is no intention whatsoever of ever offering shares for sale in Arubus to this group, despite the rumors to that effect.



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FantaSea at the Royal Plaza

Thank Goodness for Breakfast at TGI Friday's!



Palm Beach now has a charming and reasonably priced alternative for those who believe that breakfast is the most important meal of the day; TGI Friday's opened their cozy coffee corner on Wednesday morning! A collection of exotic coffees that would pass for a meal can be enjoyed on their

own or accompany any of the pleasing breakfast choices served from 8:00 a.m. until noon daily.

The taste-testing team of THE MORNING NEWS was invited to sample the exotic java blends, but opted for the Frozen Chocolate Monkey—a delicious concoction of bananas, chocolate, vanilla ice cream, with our without a dash of banana liqueur, depending on the time of day, which was nearly enough to fill one up for the morning.

Ten different breakfast plat-

ters are offered at a uniform price of \$7. Whether you choose a classic bacon and eggs breakfast with hash browns, or a bacon/cheese omelet served on a crusty ciabatta or have it toasted on the side, the servings are ample



and sure to satisfy until dinner time. Alternatives to a number of intriguing omelet/sandwich combos were muesli and yogurt, a fresh fruit platter and pancakes with bacon so there are choices to match your mood and dietary preferences. We tossed our cholesterol cares

out for the morning and went for the bacon/cheddar omelet, which was prepared to perfection and accompanied by fresh fruit.

TGI Friday's is located within the Paseo Herencia Shopping Center and aside from their internationally po-



pular lunch and dinner menus now provide an interesting and affordable breakfast choice. However you like your morning jolt of java, plain or fancy, they have something to please everyone!

by Rosalie Klein

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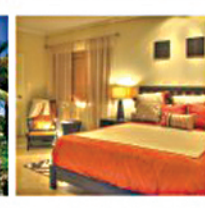
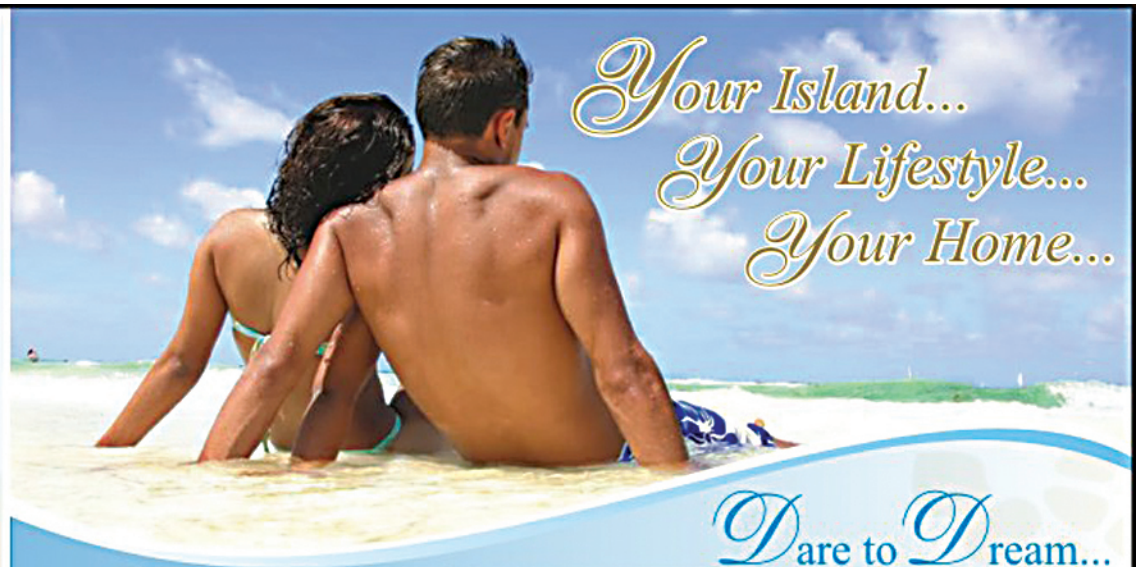
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Renewal of wedding vows brings Jean and Walter back to Aruba



Jean and Walter Kazmierczak met in Brooklyn, New York, in 1955. They dated for 5 years before Walter finally proposed to Jean in 1959. They were married a year later, and went to Aruba on their honeymoon, staying at a just-opened hotel on Palm Beach (Editor's note: We suspect it was the Radisson, then called the Aruba Caribbean Hotel). They started their family a year into the marriage when Lori was born. They waited 5 years to have J.R., then 3 years later Stacey and Joel followed.

Walter worked for American Airlines for over 35 years which brought the family to Broken Arrow OK, where they have been living for 31 fantastic years.

On the eve of their 50th anniversary, their daughters Lori and Stacy decided to bring Jean and Walter back to Aruba, with their families. Love was in the air when the local reverent asked them to re-take their vows, in the presence of Tony, Lori, Natalie, Alex, Doug, Stacey, Jake and Ryan.

Bridal Specialist Lisa Dammerman reports they enjoyed a beautiful beach ceremony followed by cocktails at Castaways Bar and Dinner in Sunset Grille Restaurant.

Sci-Tech

Google Chrome-powered notebooks on sale next year



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) – Google is building its Chrome operating system into notebook computers expected to hit the market next year in a challenge to the software at the heart of Microsoft's empire.

The technology giant on Tuesday began releasing an unbranded notebook to businesses and consumers as part of a pilot program aimed at testing a computing model that shifts operating software into the Internet "cloud."

"For us, it is a long journey building a true cloud computing model," Google vice president of product management Sundar Pichai said while demonstrating the Chrome operating system at a press event in San Francisco.

"That is what we are working on," Pichai said.

Taiwan's Acer and South Korea's Samsung are build-

ing Chrome notebook computers that will go on sale next year, according to Pichai. Pricing will be revealed by the notebook makers closer to the launch dates.

Organizations signed on to take part in the pilot program include the US Department of Defense as well as Kraft, American Airlines and Virgin America.

Google has partnered with US telecom titan Verizon to provide wireless broadband connections for Chrome notebooks.

"Not only is this the right time to build these products, but because they work they will be very successful," Google chief executive Eric Schmidt said.

"Cloud computing will define computing as we all know it in the coming decades."

Schmidt added that Chrome will be a "viable third choice" when it comes to operating systems for laptop computers. Microsoft Windows software has long been the ruling operating system in the world computer market.

The Chrome operating systems "is different in ways that matter if you believe in cloud computing," Schmidt said.

Shifting operating soft-

ware to banks of servers on the Internet means that Google will tend to matters such as updating programs and fending off hackers and malicious software.

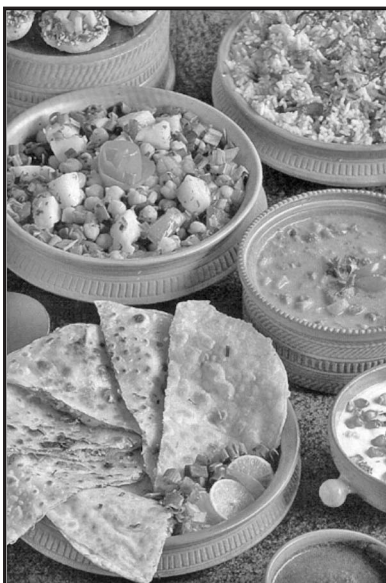
Advantages include quick start-ups from disk-drive free machines, long battery life, and essentially being able to dive into one's desktop data from anywhere on the Internet.

Japan team says stem cells made paralysed monkey jump again

TOKYO (AFP) – Japanese researchers said Wednesday they had used stem cells to restore partial mobility in a small monkey that had been paralysed from the neck down by a spinal injury.

"It is the world's first case in which a small-size primate recovered from a spinal injury using stem cells," professor Hideyuki Okano of Tokyo's Keio University told AFP.

Okano's research team,



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S.Korea's OCI announces solar panel expansion plan

SEOUL (AFP) – OCI, South Korea's leading manufacturer of polysilicon used in solar panel cells, Wednesday announced plans to spend 1.88 trillion won (1.65 billion dollars) over the next two years to expand output.

The company said in a statement it would invest 1.6 trillion won to build a new plant by October 2012, and spend another 280 billion

won expanding an existing plant.

OCI said the investments would expand its annual output capacity by 27,000 tonnes to the world's largest figure of 62,000 tonnes.

"The large-scale expansion is designed to support continuously increasing demand for high-purity polysilicon products," it said in the statement.

The injection was given on the ninth day after the injury, considered the most effective timing, and the

monkey started to move its limbs again within two to three weeks, Okano said.

"After six weeks, the animal had recovered to the level where it was jumping around," he told AFP. "It was very close to the normal level."

"Its gripping strength on the forefeet also recovered to up to 80 percent."

Okano called the research project a major stride to pave the way for a similar medical technique to be used on humans.

Scientists say the use of human embryonic stem cells as a treatment for cancer and other diseases holds great promise, but the process has drawn fire from religious conservatives and others who oppose it.

Embryonic stem cell research is controversial because human embryos are destroyed in order to obtain the cells capable of developing into almost every tissue of the body.

Microsoft adding privacy options to new Web browser

NEW YORK (AFP) – Microsoft unveiled increased privacy options Tuesday for the upcoming version of its popular Web browser Internet Explorer 9 including the ability to prevent tracking by third-party websites.

The US software giant said that the new feature, "Tracking Protection," is designed to "help consumers be in control of potential online tracking as they move around the Web."

"Tracking Protection is the new privacy feature in Internet Explorer 9 designed to help keep third-party websites from tracking your Web behavior," Microsoft said in a press release.

Microsoft said it will be built into a test version of IE9 being released early next year.

The default will be for Tracking Protection to be off, Microsoft said, and IE9 users will have to create lists of the third-party websites that they do not want to track their behaviour.

Microsoft's privacy announcement comes amid moves in Washington to create "Do Not Track" mecha-

nisms that would signal to online services not to collect Web surfing or ad-targeting data.

The US Federal Trade Commission last week proposed an online "Do Not Track" option and a US congressman announced plans to introduce legislation that would bar companies from tracking the behavior of children online.

"Some consumers today have been very clear that they have privacy concerns, like being unclear about what information is being shared and how it is used as they browse," said Peter Cullen, Microsoft's chief privacy strategist.

Microsoft released an initial test version of IE9 in September which did not include Tracking Protection. Microsoft doesn't charge separately for IE and the browser is included with Windows software.

Internet Explorer is the most widely used Web browser in the United States followed by Mozilla's Firefox, Google's Chrome and Apple's Safari.

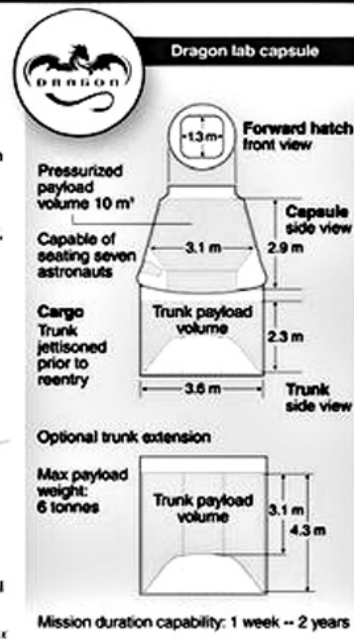
First private space capsule launches from US

Private space capsule aims for orbit

Bid by US company to be the first private launch of capsule into orbit. Capsule expected to enter orbit, then splash down into Pacific Ocean four or five hours after launch.

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Health & Living

Study links receipts, cash to cancer and obesity



WASHINGTON (AFP) — Cash register receipts and paper money have been found to contain high levels of bisphenol A (BPA), a chemical linked to cancer, obesity and early puberty, a study published Wednesday says.

Researchers from US non-profit groups Safer Chemicals, Safer Families and the Washington Toxics Coalition tested till receipts made from thermal paper which they collected from 22 popular retailers and cafes, and found that half of them were coated with large quantities of BPA.

"Since BPA in thermal paper is present in a powdery

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CAULDRON TOFU	1.09 D
PURA VEGETABLE OIL	0.70 D
CARER	1.35 A
ROLL IN THE BAG RICE	1.77 D

film, we suspected it could easily travel from those receipts to other objects," says the study, led by Washington Toxics Coalition scientist Erika Schreder.

Holding the receipts for just 10 seconds caused up to 2.5 micrograms of BPA to transfer from the paper onto a person's fingers, and rubbing the receipts increased around 15-fold the amount of BPA transferred from the receipts onto fingers, the study said.

From the fingers, the BPA transferred easily onto dollar bills: the researchers found the chemical on 21 of 22 bills tested, although in much lower levels than on the till receipts.

More than 130 studies over the past decade have linked even low levels of BPA to serious health problems, including breast cancer, obesity and early onset of puberty.

The European Union last month followed Canada's lead and banned the use of BPA in baby bottles after tests showed the petroleum product can affect neural development and behavior in laboratory animals exposed to the chemical in the womb or very early in life.

But BPA is still widely used in plastic water jugs, soft drink cans, hockey helmets, mobile phone housings, computers, car bumpers and other consumer products, and the health impact of the chemical on humans has been disputed.

US panel approves first obesity drug in a decade

WASHINGTON (AFP) — An advisory panel to the US Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday gave its approval to an anti-obesity drug, in what could be the first new approved drug for losing weight in more than a decade.

Contrave, a drug devel-

oped by the California-based Orexigen Therapies, was given the nod by a 13-7 vote by the FDA expert panel, which advises the US regulatory body.

The FDA usually follows its recommendations, and is expected to make a final decision in January.

Tip: You May Have Sprained Your Neck



If you tear a ligament that joins the seven spinal bones in your neck to each other, it's considered a neck sprain. It often occurs when the neck is stretched to an extreme position during a motor vehicle accident or fall.

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons says possible signs of this injury include:

- * Pain, particularly the back of the neck, that worsens when you move.
- * Pain that gets worse a day or two after the initial injury.
- * Pain and muscle spasms in the upper area of the shoulder.
- * Pain in the back part of the head.
- * Sore throat, trouble sleeping, feeling fatigued and irritable, and having trouble concentrating.
- * Numbness, weakness or a tingling sensation in the hand or arm.

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ARUBA



There is a particularly lovely beach on Aruba with a gorgeous vista right near the airport, known always as Surfside; for some time now the building adjacent to it has gone through a string of owners seeking an appropriate identity for this special place, and it looks like it has finally found it with the opening of the Nikky Beach Club Aruba.

Our investigative team from THE MORNING NEWS went down to have a look at this latest venture, and we found just the kind of authentically tranquil, Caribbean ambiance vacationers seek when

visiting Aruba. New owner Hans and his GM Lub have completely renovated and redesigned the venue to fully showcase this charming location while providing a very reasonably priced menu and bar.

The official arrival of holiday season has a number of company party planners scrambling at the last minute for a venue for their end of the year festivities; if you have a group to small for the larger resorts and are looking for a unique and charming location with an expert gourmet chef, the new Nikky Beach will very

likely come to the rescue. Contact Lub to arrange a customized holiday party for your group to fit your budget, including free-flowing mimosas.

This month they are hosting a number of special public parties on Saturday nights, starting with the 10th anniversary bash of the I LUV MUZIKA group this coming Saturday, December 4, which should be a blast. Until arrival of Christmas there will be more such events, and they will crown their month with a special holiday dinner on December 25 and 26.

Hans and Lub have dubbed Sunday's at Nikky Beach "Rehab Day," when they provide a particularly pleasant ambiance with popular local and international DJ's from noon on and \$3 Mimosas all day long. During the traditional Happy Hour time slot, they feature live music with top local groups specializing in the soft sound of the islands.

When first investigating Nikky Beach we discovered extremely interesting items on the menu at very moderate prices; their chef offers an extensive fusion selection that re-



veals expertise in several notable cuisines coupled with a nice variety that will please everyone's mood. For lunch and snacking you find a varied choice of classic salads, favorite local treats, pastas and gourmet sandwiches. Kitchen is open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

One last interesting tidbit: Lub explained they offer a customized Departure Day Package that allows vacationer to stow their luggage, enjoy all their amenities, choose a meal, drinks or both and they will personally guarantee getting you to the airport in plenty of time for the flight. Changing

rooms and showers let you swim and beach it until departure time and you can linger without rushing, as the airport is only 2 minutes away; no worries about fighting traffic or delays. "Why should you end your stay on a hurried and harried note?" asks Lub. "You can join us for the day and keep that relaxed island ambiance up to the last minute; it doesn't have to end at check out." The package requires reservations, which can be made by calling 582-0153 or contact them through their website: www.nickybeach-aruba.com.

by Rosalie Klein

The next Top Dog competition final is this Saturday



Animal lovers who want to see the well commented Top Dog competition have now the opportunity to do so. On Saturday, December 11, 18 beauties will walk the 'dogwalk' at the Renaissance Market Place.

Shohaira Barnes da Silva informs all animal lovers that due to the rain the Top Dog competition was moved to this Saturday. The event starts at 5:00 p.m.

Participants must be regis-

tered at 4:30 p.m. in order to get a badge to compete. After the competition there will be a Dog Fashion Show, prepared by the Bestial team, while waiting for the final results.

For three weeks the pooches

trained how to walk in their outfits. The competition promises to be very tough. Those interested can follow the trainings on www.bestialtv.com

This Saturday will determine who will be the grand

winner of Island Xtravaganza's

The next Top Dog will be chosen from Aruba's most popular and best dressed dog.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a healthy, and fun event.

Fabulous Night for ladies every Thursday at Milano Restaurant



A three course dinner for only \$35, all night long martinis for only \$5 and a 2 for one special from 10 to 11 p.m. These are the offers at Milano's Fabulous Night for all ladies visiting the establishment.

The menu is a creation of Chef Abase, based on the different taste of today's women in mind. Women of today are very demanding so the menu has a lot of different flavors and is low in calories, in other words there a great variation of choices.

Fabulous Night was created especially for the ladies. On this day they can treat themselves to a nice outing, meet their friends and enjoy a moment of reprieve from their daily routine. Dinner starts from 5:30 until 11:00 p.m.

So fabulous woman, if you want to spend a nice time with your friends and colleagues go to Milano's Fabulous Night. Just call 586707 for a reservation and spent a fabulous Thursday night.



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Chocolat is on the look-out for friends and family

We would like to introduce Chocolat to you, one of the donkeys that is cared for by the Aruban Donkey Foundation. He owes his name to his coloring, not to his addiction to chocolates. This donkey is brown all over, from back to front; this is quite extraordinary, as there are just three brown donkeys at the sanctuary. All of these bear names that are referring to food: Brownie and Krokiet. We are not sure when this lovely brown donkey was born, but we believe it to have been around 2002. He has been living at the sanctuary for many years now; he just jumped the fence one day and he has stayed. He is a tough guy and leader of a group of donkeys. Together with other, less dominant, males he maintains order in the 100-donkey strong enclave.

Chocolat has a chip, just like the other donkeys. This way he can be recognized. The donkeys at the sanctuary are

well cared for: they get their food and drink and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers. The volunteers try to cover the cost through organizing all kinds of activities and by selling nice souvenirs in the store. Fortunately there are visitors who adopt a donkey now and then, who donate money or who buy something in the store. They help keep the sanctuary afloat that way.

The volunteers are now looking for people who wish to adopt Chocolat. Chocolat will stay there, of course; the only thing that is needed is AWG. 30,- per month pays for his keep. In this way you help support this wonderful donkey,



who has distinct qualities as a leader, as well as the sanctuary. You will receive a nice document and a super T-shirt. And if you like, your name and photo will be posted on our website.

Please call the donkey foundation at 595-2933 and become Chocolat's new family; you can also register as an adoptive parent via our website www.arubadonkey.org or deposit a donation on our Aruba Bank account 40.03.025.

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. Play actors
5. Petticoat junctions?
10. Angel's instrument
14. Prince Charles, e.g.
15. _____ on the line
16. Inter _____
17. French river
18. Fanon
19. Rampage
20. U.S. artist
23. Pith helmet
24. Glide
27. Flatfish

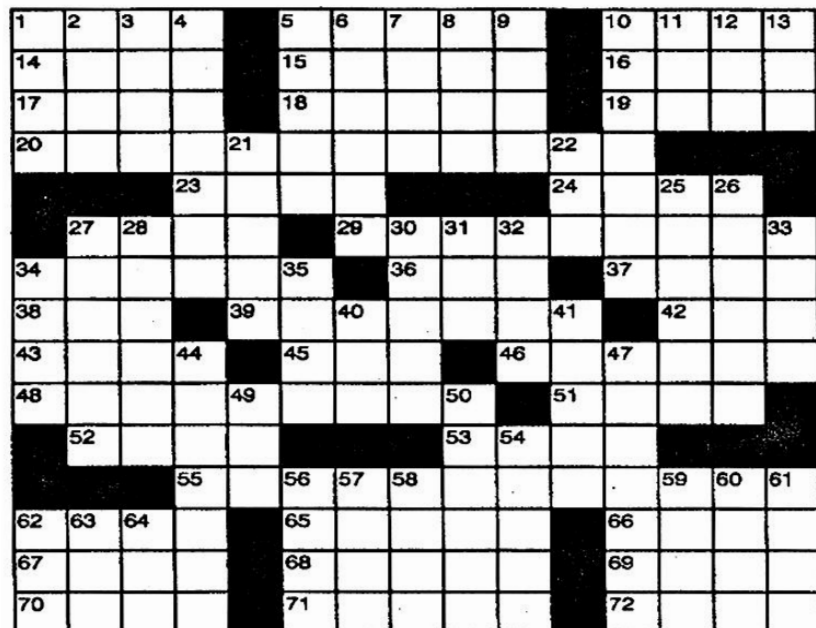
29. "American Gothic" artist
34. "Peace and Plenty" artist
36. Geisha's sash
37. Sp. miss
38. Obtained
39. Espadrilles
42. Paving liquid
43. Prototype: abbr.
45. Maiden-named
46. U.S. artist
48. Old-West sculptor
51. Mere
52. Nevada city

53. Hockey's Bobby et al.
55. Primitive painter
62. Tamarisk
65. Navigation aid
66. Beehive State
67. Heathland
68. Slur over
69. Space agcy.
70. Pretentious
71. Thicket
72. Changed color

DOWN

1. Military meal
2. Air: pref.
3. _____ Fein
4. Railroad bridge
5. Sailboat

6. Garden pest
7. Indian nurse
8. "Venus de _____"
9. Goblet part
10. Distresses
11. Actress MacGraw
12. "Flying Down to _____"
13. Dab
21. Loamy deposit
22. Part of i.e.
25. Of the main artery
26. Traffic circle
27. Noisy sleeper
28. Punctual
30. Cowboy show
31. Camel's-hair coat
32. Actor Asther
33. Flit
34. "Prince _____"
35. Crooned
40. Mesh fabric
41. Blizzard
44. Pungent
47. Ill-founded
49. And not
50. Wanderers
54. Indian queen
56. Actor Guinness
57. _____ contendere
58. Kill-joy
59. Linger
60. Life of Riley
61. _____ roe
62. Doctors' gp.
63. Rocky pinnacle
64. Fortune



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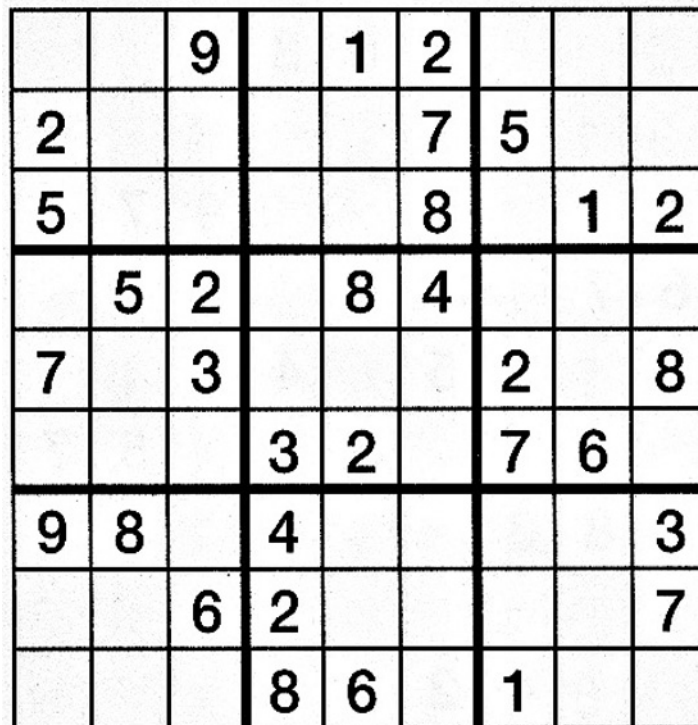
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	9	1	8	9	8	2	7	4
2	8	4	9	6	2	9	8	1
8	2	9	1	7	4	5	8	6
9	9	2	6	2	8	1	4	8
8	4	2	9	9	1	8	6	2
2	1	6	8	8	9	4	2	9
9	8	9	2	4	6	8	1	2
4	2	8	2	1	5	6	9	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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Finance



FRANKFURT AM MAIN, Germany -- School pupils follow the launch of the online game "Economia" in the central German city of Frankfurt am Main yesterday. The new online game aims to inform young people of the workings of the European Central Bank. (AFP PHOTO)



COLOMBO, Sri Lanka -- Photo shows a container ship approaching the main port of Colombo. The Sri Lanka Ports Authority says that the total amount of containers handled by the port would reach a historic high of four million twenty-foot containers or equivalent units by the end of 2010. (AFP PHOTO)



BEIJING, China -- An elderly couple sit in front of a Christmas decoration at a shopping mall in Beijing. A Chinese government think tank has warned inflationary pressures are building in the economy and consumer prices will remain "relatively high" in 2011, amid growing expectations of a rate hike. (AFP PHOTO)

Hackers launch cyber attacks after WikiLeaks' funding cut

ZURICH, Switzerland (AFP) - Hackers claimed yesterday to have attacked the websites of Mastercard and a Swiss bank in apparent revenge for their decisions to choke off funding for the whistleblowing website WikiLeaks.

But WikiLeaks insisted it had nothing to do with the hacking.

As the website's founder Julian Assange spent his first full day in a London prison after he was refused bail on Tuesday, it emerged that one of Britain's highest-profile lawyers will fight moves to extradite him to Sweden to face rape accusations.

Assange's 20-year-old son meanwhile said he hoped his father's arrest in Britain was not a "step towards his extradition to the US."

WikiLeaks has enraged governments around the world by releasing a wave of US diplomatic cables, detailing everything from China's view of North Korea to unflattering descriptions of world leaders.

After WikiLeaks appealed for donations to be able to continue its activities, Mastercard and Visa said they were suspending payments to the site, apparently sparking attempts to hack into the payment services.

A group of hackers dubbed Anon_Operation said they had brought down www.mastercard.com, although the company itself refused to comment.

The group, which claims it is fighting for "freedom on the internet," designated mastercard.com as their "current target" in what was rapidly taking the proportions of a cyber war.

The Swiss post office banking service, PostFinance, also confirmed its website was suffering "denial of service attacks" since it closed Assange's account.

WikiLeaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson told AFP the hackers were "not associated" with his organisation.

"We are not associated with them and this is a decision that they are taking. It is part of a consumers' response, I gather,"

he said.

In another twist to the cyber war, Icelandic firm DataCell said it would sue Visa for blocking payments to WikiLeaks and accused the credit card giant of bowing to political pressure.

Geoffrey Robertson, a barrister who has established a reputation for arguing for victims of human rights abuses, will defend Assange in his attempts to avoid extradition to Sweden where he faces allegations of rape and molestation.

After laying low for weeks, Assange emerged on Tuesday and handed himself in to police in London, appearing before a judge who denied him bail despite offers by celebrities, including film director Ken Loach, to put up surety.

He was ordered to return to court on December 14.

Assange's supporters insist the extradition request is politically motivated, a claim refuted by the lawyer for the two Swedish women behind the rape claims.

Fed: Electronic payments crowd out checks in US

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Electronic payments have surged in the United States to more than 75 percent of all noncash payments as check usage continues to fall by the wayside, a Federal Reserve report showed yesterday.

All types of US electronic payments grew in the 2006-2009 period studied, with the exception of credit cards, the Fed said.

Wire transfers were not included in the triannual study, whose latest edition spans the worst US recession since the Great Depression and a global financial meltdown after the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy in 2008.

Noncash payments increased 4.6 percent per year in the period, to 108.9 billion dollars in 2009.

Electronic payments "now collectively exceed three-quarters of all noncash payments while payments by check are now less than one-quarter," the central bank reported.

Revealing the swift rise of electronic trade in the world's largest economy, the study found the number of electronic payments leaped 9.3 percent in 2009 from 2006, to 84.5 billion. The value of e-payments totaled 40.7 trillion dollars.

In the Fed's prior study on the 2003-2006 period, roughly two-thirds of the payments were made electronically in 2006.

Check payments were the biggest decliner in the latest study, dropping 7.2 percent to 24.4 billion and totaling 31.6 trillion dollars.

Credit card usage also faded, falling 0.2 percent, and were eclipsed by debit cards as the most used noncash instrument, the Fed said.

Debit cards jumped 14.8 percent to 37.9 billion payments totaling 1.5 trillion dollars.

TUESDAY'S Crossword Answer (Corr.)														
ALT	HAIG	PROPS	BALT	NEH	ABBA	AUDIT	UTAH	THECREOLE	STATE	CLIO	APART	LASH	STOKERS	EVERY
ORAD	NOON	PANTY	SEC	AEON	HERO	ELAS	HAVEN	SHOWME	ONE	MASSED	STEREOS	ANET	ALTOS	THINNER
GEAR	ORANGES	PRESTO	OCT	BADGER	FOIST	OKEN	IDES	HOLM	ARE	OATES	CERE	GROW	OLIOS	ECLAT
POSSESS	GOAT	DELTA	TITI	THEGOPHER	STATE	ERLE	ROGET	ERAT	TEA	DEER	STORY	RAGS	EDT	

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer														
SOUR	GASH	VAMP	DADO	UNTO	ANNA	ANCE	ARIA	BEAT	ITER	SAID	BEST	JOHANN	SEBASTIAN	BACH
TIS	ORA	LIL	CAPIES	PORTRAY	BESET	ABE	TEL	LAP	LIE	PERI	HAAF	ALLO	TARE	LUOWIG
EAR	YET	DES	INN	SMEAR	LESUEUR	PRATE	BOG	IMP	ERE	IGNACE	JANPADER	REWSKI	ALAS	RUNT
MUSE	ESSE	TALC	RILL	BETS	STAR	STAT	DRAY							

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza place, delicious meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner



Plain Pancake

Linda's Pancake and Pizza place, located at Palm Beach 6D, Noord (on the right side of Valero gas station) offers patrons the most delicious Dutch pancakes and pizza's with a Dutch twist.

Open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and only five minutes away from the high-rise resorts, Linda's is the perfect eatery for the whole family.

Seeing the popularity of this quaint small eatery, THE MORNING NEWS decided it

is just mmm... good. The saté... out of this world!"

Besides the original plain pancake, Linda's specialty is pancakes with walnuts, Brie and honey; pancakes with banana and mango or a Dutch favorite: pancake with apple and bacon.

All their pizzas are made with Dutch Gouda cheese and different toppings making it richer in taste.

When it comes to saté, one has to say that the secret is in



Olgita, Ilhan and Iyanla enjoying a scrumptious meal

was time to find out just how good Linda's really is, by sending out a team of taste testers.

Olgita, joined by her two kids ordered a little of everything while the kids roamed around freely, enjoying the afternoon.

The meal started out with Linda's original plain – to die for – Dutch pancakes, followed by pizza, where instead of using mozzarella Linda has created a unique twist to the traditional Italian dish by using Dutch Gouda cheese. Adding a local favorite which could not stay off the table they also sampled the delicious saté (chicken, pork or beef on a wooden skewer) with peanut sauce (Indonesian influence on local food). For the finish the team (adults only) had one cup of Linda's delicious Espresso.

The team had this to say: "Superb! There are no words to describe just how delicious the pancakes are and the pizza

the sauce. Not everybody can make that perfect peanut sauce, but Linda, being an expert in the kitchen has cooked up one of the finest peanut sauces on the island, making this original Indonesian dish extra special.

If you want a specially prepared pancake or pizza, Linda is right there -- just for you -- in her kitchen.

"For those who are allergic to gluten I have a special pancake mix, gluten free," Linda stated to THE MORNING NEWS team.

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza also offers fried eggs and homemade soups.

"We also serve American coffee," Linda concluded.

With a complete menu, filled with delicious pancakes, pizzas and more, Linda's pancake and Pizza place is the perfect casual restaurant for all in the family.

For more information contact Linda's at 586-3378.

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Bangladesh police probe 'rat curry' served to students

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AFP) - Police are investigating the chef at a canteen of a leading university in Bangladesh after a student found a rat's head in a bowl of chicken curry, sparking protests.

The student made the gruesome discovery while eating lunch on Monday and fell sick immediately, the head of security at Rajshahi university in western Bangladesh, Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria, told AFP.

"We've launched an investigation to find out why rodent meat was served to students," he said Wednesday, adding that the chef had been fired and handed over to police, and the canteen closed temporarily.

"We don't know if this was an accident or deliberate," he said, adding that the police were investigating.

The incident led to



protests by students at the university, the country's second largest with over 25,000 students, who were already demonstrating about a recent hike in the price of meals at the canteen.

Rats are common in Bangladesh and are responsible for widespread damage to crops every year.

A recent report by Dhaka University's nutrition department found the quality of food served at dining halls in public universities across the country was of poor quality and often prepared in unhygienic conditions.

Crowds and koalas greet Oprah circus



HAMILTON ISLAND, Australia (AFP) - US talkshow queen Oprah Winfrey cuddled a koala and her excited studio guests scattered across Australia Wednesday as her "Ultimate Australian Adventure" swung into action.

Winfrey touched down in Great Barrier Reef holiday spot Hamilton Island in her private jet before personally driving a golf buggy to a wildlife sanctuary, where she was mobbed by hundreds of cheering Australians on the first stop of her tour.

"It's beautiful. It's a long trip but it's worth it," Winfrey, wearing a marigold blouse and gold hoop earrings, said of her first impressions of Australia.

"It's better than a book or a magazine. And the people are so friendly. Spectacular is what it is," she added, before being ushered away by her security detail.

Earlier about 100 members of her studio audience flew in from Sydney, with some still struggling to come to terms with their trip of a lifetime.

The rest of the 302-strong audience, which has been split into groups, jetted off to destinations in Australia's rugged Outback to visit sacred Aboriginal rock art, and to exclusive vineyards west of Sydney.

Oprah's tour, which will take in all corners of the vast country, marks the first time her wildly popular talk show -- now filming its final season -- has been filmed outside North America.

The megastar said she would take a helicopter flight over the Great Barrier Reef before flying to Australia's red desert centre Thursday to visit Uluru, a giant monolith sacred to local tribes, also known as Ayers Rock.

From there Oprah said she would go to Melbourne, reportedly to meet Prime Min-

ister Julia Gillard and make a public appearance with fans, before returning to Sydney, while her audience would visit far southern and western regions in her place.

"I have been here one hour and I've seen two koalas mating already," Winfrey joked to the Ten Network of the amorous pair, Elvis and Phoebe.

Winfrey, 56, said she was "overjoyed" to be in Australia "and really just open to this entire experience".

"As I was flying in I thought 'this, I could get used to'," she said of Hamilton Is-

secret, but a climb of Sydney's Harbour Bridge and visit to Bondi Beach are believed to be on her weekend agenda.

The iconic Sydney Opera House will become the "Oprah House" on December 14, when two episodes of the hit talk-show are to be filmed in its forecourt before 12,000 Australians who were selected by ballot.

Ranked the world's most powerful celebrity by Forbes magazine, Oprah is expected to be swarmed by fans Australia-wide, with some even staking out Cairns airport



Some of the 300 audience members from the Oprah Winfrey Show (C) are ushered through the terminal after arriving at Sydney International Airport.



Oprah personally drives a golf buggy to a wildlife sanctuary

land, the idyllic white-sand gateway to the Whitsunday Islands chain.

Winfrey's tour is being funded by 2.3 million dollars (2.25 million US) of government money in a bid to halt a fall in tourism since its highs of the 1990s, and officials hope it will be a boon for the industry, suffering due to the strong Australian dollar.

"This trip will generate enormous publicity when the show goes to air in January," said Tourism Queensland CEO Anthony Hayes.

Oprah's whirlwind itinerary remains a closely guarded

where she made a pit-stop Wednesday, hoping for a glimpse of their icon.

Local media have dubbed her visit the "biggest show in town", with security rivalling that normally offered to heads of state and summits, complete with road closures and exclusion zones throughout Sydney.

Australian fans attending the Opera House tapings have been issued a lengthy list of prohibited items including umbrellas, coolers, tents, bicycles, fires, illegal drugs and pets.

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Parker leads from Verchenova in Dubai finale

DUBAI (AFP) - An early birdie blitz from Florentyana Parker lifted her into the lead after the opening day of the 500,000-euro Dubai Ladies Masters, the season-ending event of the Ladies European Tour, here on Wednesday.

The 21-year-old from England made five birdies in her first seven holes, but a bogey on her penultimate hole saw her finish at five-under par 67, one ahead of Russia's Maria Verchenova, who is playing on a sponsors' invitation.

American superstar Michelle Wie, who triple bogeyed the eighth after firing an eagle on the third, settled for a one-under par 71, while defending champion In-Kyung Kim of Korea fared much better with a three-under par 69.

American teenager Alexis Thompson opened with a 73, but multiple major champion and world No16 Anna Nordqvist of Sweden was in the mix with a 70.

In the battle for the Order of Merit crown, leader Lee-Anne Pace of South Africa did not have the best of days as she opened with a 73, but got a bit of help from her only challenger Laura Davies, who struggled for a 75 after a late night phone call ruined her sleep.



Parker, who has been spending the last couple of weeks in Dubai with a cousin who is a professional at one of the golf clubs here, got off to a great start with a couple of birdies on her opening two holes.

She then birdied the par-5 13th, and made successive birdies again on the 15th and

16th.

A winner in only her second year on the Tour, Parker said: "I hit it really close and made the putts. It was really fun."

"Then I had a par spell, and it was getting a bit boring and I wanted a few more birdies. But made birdie on six, which was nice. Dropped a shot on eight but that was a tricky hole today. No, I'm really happy with my round."

"I've been here for nearly two weeks now practising, because there's snow at home. So yeah, it was great to be able to get prepared well."

Verchenova started with six pars in a row, but the birdies came in a bunch after that and her only mistake was a bogey on the ninth hole.

After closing in style with birdies on the 17th and 18th, the Russian said: "It's one of the weeks where I've got to stay positive. I didn't have a good season, but I am trying to make a comeback with a positive attitude and a new coach, so it's very good."

"It's one of those weeks where I've got to get in the top-20 to keep my card. After all those pars, I was kind of getting a bit frustrated, I really wanted birdies. It was just to stay patient and the birdies started coming."

Ronaldo admits five-year-old boy is his son

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Star Brazilian striker Ronaldo on Wednesday admitted to being the father of a five-year-old boy born in Japan and living in Singapore, following the result of a DNA test.

"Alex is my son, the brother of three other children. I will always behave as his father," wrote Ronaldo, 34, on his Twitter social networking account.

"The result of the test confirmed my feelings when I met Alex," added Ronaldo, who first met the child on Monday.

The DNA test to which Ronaldo submitted confirmed that he was the father of the boy, who was born in Japan and has Brazilian na-

tionality.

The mother of Alex, Michele Umezu, had been trying since 2009 to have Ronaldo recognised as the boy's father and is demanding child support.

She says she met Ronaldo at a party in Tokyo in 2002 celebrating Brazil's success at that year's World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

Reports said Michele Umezu was a 28-year-old Brazilian living in Singapore.

Ronaldo, nicknamed 'Fenomeno', already has three children: a 10-year-old son with his ex-wife Milene Dominguez, and two younger daughters, one aged 21 months and the other eight months, with his current wife, Bia Anthony.

Tevez tells City fans to stop United baiting



MANCHESTER (AFP) - Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez has urged the club's fans to focus their energies on supporting City rather than taunting arch-rivals Manchester United.

Tevez joined City from United before the start of last season and soon afterwards his new supporters started the chant of "Fergie, Fergie, sign him up", a dig directed at long-serving United manager Sir Alex Ferguson for letting the Argentina striker cross the Manchester divide to the dismay of many of the Old Traf-

ford club's fans.

But while United under Ferguson have won numerous trophies, the fact remains City's last major piece of silverware was the 1976 English League Cup.

However, bankrolled by their wealthy Abu Dhabi owners, big-spenders City are now fourth in the Premier League table -- two points behind second-placed United and three adrift of leaders Arsenal.

"The thing that would wind up Sir Alex more than

anything is for us to win something and really start achieving things," Tevez told ManC, the official Manchester City magazine.

"It is not the song that needs to change; it's the attitude or mindset of our fans."

"Let's not be thinking about Sir Alex Ferguson and Manchester United, we need to think of City and what we can do."

"What we have got to do is not to devote any of our time to United and just focus on ourselves."



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Another court date for Mayweather

LAS VEGAS (AFP) - Unbeaten fighter Floyd Mayweather Jr was given a February 3 trial date in a hearing Wednesday on a misdemeanor battery charge for his run-in with a security guard over parking tickets.

Mayweather was allowed to remain free by Las Vegas Justice Court judge Tony Abbatangelo, who noted Mayweather was already free on 33,000 dollars bail ahead of a January 24 arraignment date on an unrelated charge.

Mayweather, 33, did not appear at the hearing.

Last month, Mayweather was involved in a dispute with a 21-year-old security guard outside Mayweather's home, the fighter being accused of poking his finger in the face of the homeowners association guard, what pros-

ecutors claim was a willful and illegal act.

Ten days before the battery case goes to court, Mayweather faces a court date from a September argument with the mother of his children at her house.

Mayweather faces charges of felony robbery, coercion and grand larceny as well as misdemeanor domestic battery and harassment charges in connection with that incident.

Mayweather, 41-0 with 25 career knockouts, was once regarded as the world's top pound-for-pound fighter, but his inability to make a deal for a megafight with Filipino star Manny Pacquiao and legal woes have dimmed the US boxer's star in the past year.

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Chicago clubs ink top sluggers

CHICAGO (AFP) - Major League Baseball's Chicago clubs agreed to deals with top sluggers on Wednesday, the White Sox keeping Paul Konerko in a three-year deal while the Cubs landed free agent first baseman Carlos Pena.

The deals came during meetings in Florida among club executives and produced a one-year Cubs deal worth 10 million dollars for Pena while Konerko will make 37.5 million dollars in a deal to stay with the White Sox through 2013.

Konerko, 34, was fifth in voting for the American League Most Valuable Player award this season after batting .312 with 39 home runs and driving in 111 runs.

Konerko, a first baseman, helped the White Sox win the 2005 World Series after arriving from Cincinnati eight years earlier and has career totals with the White Sox of

358 homers and 1,127 runs batted in.

"Paul's value to the organization on the field and in the clubhouse can never be overstated. He is one of the greatest players in franchise history, and we hope he finishes his career in a White Sox uniform," White Sox general manager Kenny Williams said.

Pena, who played the past four years with Tampa Bay, helped the Rays reach their first World Series in 2008. Pena, 32, will be able to become a free agent again next year.

This year, Pena hit only .196 with 28 homers and batted in 84 runs after better numbers each of his prior seasons.

The Cubs, whose drought since 1908 for a World Series crown is the longest such title wait in American sport, went 75-87 last season despite spending 146 million dollars on talent in 2010.

Redskins suspend Haynesworth for rest of season

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Washington Redskins suspended disgruntled defensive lineman Albert Haynesworth for the rest of the NFL season on Tuesday for "conduct detrimental to the club."

"Despite the club's numerous attempts to persuade Albert Haynesworth to abide by the terms of his contract, he has repeatedly refused to cooperate with our coaching staff in a variety of ways over an extended period of time," said head coach Mike Shanahan, who has clashed with Haynesworth since Shanahan's arrival in January.

Shanahan, a two-time Super Bowl winner as a coach, said Haynesworth refused to fall in with the defensive schemes the coaching staff wanted to implement,

both in training and during games.

Shanahan apparently decided he'd had enough when Haynesworth told a club executive that he didn't intend to speak to his head coach any more.

Trophies, memorabilia stolen from Sampras

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Pete Sampras, the tennis legend who won 14 Grand Slam titles, has been robbed of most of the trophies and memorabilia from his fabled career, the retired US star told the Los Angeles Times.

The newspaper reported on Tuesday night that Sampras had the objects -- including two Davis Cup trophies, his six year-end world number one trophies and an Olympic ring -- taken from a

Once-reviled Vick leads Pro Bowl balloting



NEW YORK (AFP) - Michael Vick, the Philadelphia Eagles star who was serving a prison sentence 18 months ago for his role in a dogfight gambling ring, leading NFL fan balloting for the Pro Bowl all-star game.

Vick, a former Atlanta Falcons star, was among the most reviled figures in American sport in 2007 after details of how he slayed under-performing animals made him a target for pet lovers.

But two days shy of the third anniversary of his sentencing to federal prison for conspiracy in funding a dogfight operation, Vick has become literally the people's choice when it comes to performers they want to watch.

The NFL announced Wednesday that Vick leads Pro Bowl quarterback fan balloting with 729,838 votes with Peyton Manning of Indianapolis second by 38,692 votes.

Los Angeles public storage rental unit.

Sampras said he still has 13 of his 14 Grand Slam singles championship trophies but added: "My first Australian Open trophy is gone and so is everything else."

"I'm not one to gloat about trophies, or show them off. I've never been like that. I just want them for my kids to see. They didn't see me play, but I would like them to see these things."

Internet balloting ends December 20 with final team selections coming from a combination of player, fan and coach voting.

The voting indicates Vick has been somewhat forgiven for his criminal misdeeds after falling from the pinnacle of

NFL success, losing a huge contract and his superstar status as a run-pass threat during his days with Atlanta.

Philadelphia took a chance

on Vick as a backup last year and this year he moved into the starting job as well as returned to NFL stardom, having run or thrown for 21 touchdowns for the Eagles while being intercepted only twice.

Vick has sparked the Eagles to an 8-4 record and a share of the NFC East lead with the New York Giants.

He became the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for three touchdowns and run for two more in one half during a 59-28 rout of Washington last month.



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Women's World Cup Germany 2011 tour kicks off in Australia



Steffi Jones poses during a Women's FIFA World Cup football countdown event at in Sydney, Australia. The FIFA and Local Organising Committee Welcome Tour of all participating nations for the FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011 kicked off in enjoyable fashion on a balmy Sydney evening, exactly 200 days out from the start of the tournament. Australia was seemingly an appropriate venue to commence the Welcome Tour, with the Matildas being the first to nation to qualify for Germany 2011, which they did last May en route to winning their first Asian crown. The event marked a long-awaited return to Australia for Steffi Jones, who was last Down Under as a member of the German team which performed with distinction at the 2000 Olympics. The LOC President talking with genuine warmth about her memories of that tournament, which began with an opening match against none other than Australia. "We are hoping to open doors and leave some sort of legacy [in untry that we visit]," said Steffi Jones. The tournament will run from June 26-July 17, 2011.

Judge delays Clemens trial until July

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A federal judge on Wednesday pushed back the trial of former Major League Baseball star Roger Clemens on charges of lying before Congress in 2008 for three months, delaying it until next July.

The legendary pitcher faces one count of obstruction of Congress, two counts of perjury and three counts of making false statements during testimony before a congressional committee when denying he used performance-enhancing drugs.

Clemens' attorney Rusty Hardin said he needed time to review "voluminous" amounts of evidence, including hiring experts to sort through scientific reports and exhibits, presumably syringes allegedly used to inject steroids.

Prosecutors said more than 54,000 pages of evidence had been produced.

"We're reviewing the materials of a two-year investigation," Hardin said.

Clemens, a former ace for the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox, faces a maximum of 30 years in prison and a 1.5 million-dollar fine, but sentencing guidelines would normally mean



he would face between 15 or 21 months in prison.

The case was originally set to go to trial in April, just as the 2011 Major League Baseball season was getting underway.

Hardin said he will seek a subpoena to compel a congressional panel and the Mitchell Commission to release evidence he seeks in the case.

US District Court judge Reggie Walton scheduled a March 14 hearing on that issue but hoped it would not delay the trial even longer.

Hardin had sought a delay until next September and prosecutors hoped to start the trial in June.

Walton said his schedule dictated that jury selection for the trial begin on July 6, with attorneys estimating that six weeks will be needed for the trial.

Clemens, 48, and former trainer Brian McNamee gave very conflicting accounts of whether or not Clemens ever took steroids and human growth hormone before the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

McNamee said he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone more than 30 times between 1998 and 2001. Clemens denied ever taking those drugs.

Former Clemens teammate Andy Pettitte told the committee that Clemens had told him that he had used human growth hormone but Clemens said Pettitte "misremembered" the conversation.

In August, Clemens pleaded not guilty to the charges and a tentative trial date of April 5 was set, but attorneys on both sides warned the court they would need time to sort through evidence.

Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner as top pitcher, won 354 games and struck out 4,672 batters while compiling a 3.12 career earned-run average over 23 major league seasons with the Red Sox, Yankees, Toronto Blue Jays and Houston Astros.

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